

From: Dan Stromberg
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/10/01 12:17pm
Subject: about the microsoft settlements

Please use the settlement proposed by the 9 remaining states, including California. They know what they're talking about. Microsoft's getting off far too easy in the proposed DOJ settlement.

If you must go ahead with the proposed DOJ settlement:

Please consider Steve Satchel for the DOJ's Microsoft settlement advisory panel.

Please give the DOJ settlement more teeth. As far as I can tell, the only penalty if Microsoft violates the terms of the agreement, is a longer monitoring phase - which had just proved ineffective. More of the same wouldn't appear to be an effective deterrent.

Please make the settlement have some bearing on opensource projects. That is, don't allow Microsoft to use its anticompetitive tricks against linux, apache, samba, python, perl and so on, just because they aren't directly championed by companies. Sure, there are plenty of companies selling this stuff, but that's a different matter. These projects represent the biggest threat to Microsoft's stranglehold on the computing industry, and are the only source of competition microsoft has. Plus don't allow Microsoft to define these as non-businesses, and hence behave in an unregulated manner with regard to them.

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Dan Stromberg

UCI/NACS/DCS